Drought relief assistance in Kerala

3745. SHRIN. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for not extending drought relief assistance to Kerala though the State has been declared as drought affected;

(b) the existing norms adopted by Government to grant financial assistance under drought relief scheme;

(c) whether Kerala Government has sought financial assistance and if so. the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are considering granting a special assistance to Kerala to undertake relief activities in drought-hit districts including agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) There is ready availability of funds with the State Governments under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)is provided for natural calamities of severe nature, in accordance with the items and norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF. when the availability of funds in the CRF is not sufficient to tackle the situation. For the current drought, no assistance from NCCF could be provided to Kerala in view of adequate balance available in the CRF of the State. 0.52 lakh MTs of foodgrains have, however, been released to the State for relief employment, free of cost, under the Special component of Sampoorna Gramccn Rozgar Yqjana(SGRY) Scheme.

Popularising hybrid rice

3746. SHRI MOT1LALVORA:
SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering seriously for increasing the food production;

(b) if so. whether Hybrid rice is supposed to be a devise for increasing the production;

(c) if not. what are the proposed new varieties:

(d) whether the Ministry considers it necessary to popularize the Hybrid rice; and

(c) if so. whether Government have constituted a committee to study the above subject?